

Office of the Legislative Auditor General







Introduction

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The Utah State Legislature created the Office of the Legislative Auditor General (OLAG) in 1975. OLAG has constitutional authority to audit any branch, department, agency, or political subdivision of the state.

The Legislative Auditor General is a constitutionally created position with a six-year term of appointment. The Auditor General reports directly to the Legislative Audit Subcommittee of the Legislative Management Committee. The committee is composed of the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, and the House Majority and Minority Leaders, making it a six-member committee.

■ What Does the Office of the Legislative Auditor General Do?

OLAG has the constitutional authority to audit any state agency, local government entity, or any entity that receives state funds. These audits review entities for efficiency, effectiveness, and compliance with legal requirements. Audits take, on average, 9 months depending on the scope and complexity of the audit. The office completes one annual in-depth budget review of both a state agency and a local education agency.

■ How Are Audits Initiated?

Any legislator can make an audit request simply by writing a letter to the Legislative Audit Subcommittee identifying specific issues of concern that the audit should address. Legislators can contact OLAG for assistance with these letters. While a letter of request can originate from one legislator, the request may have a higher likelihood of prioritization if it is signed by a group of legislators. Issues typically given the highest priority are those that have the potential for a significant statewide impact and those that are likely to be addressed by the Legislature during the next session.

■ What Is the Audit Process?

Once an audit is staffed, the team conducts an introductory meeting with the auditee. Auditors then conduct a risk assessment to identify areas with the highest potential for impactful recommendations leading to improvements in efficiency, effectiveness, and compliance. Auditors conduct interviews, gather and analyze data, and review relevant statute and other standards to support the team's findings and recommendations. Throughout the audit process, the team strives to work collaboratively and openly with the auditee.

<u>Download</u> <u>Audit Reports</u>



Inside the Annual Report

Legislative Action Items
Office Impact
Completed Audits
Follow Ups
Released Audits, 2019-2021



Legislative Action Items

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Based on issues addressed and recommendations made in our 2020, 2021, and 2022 audits, we believe the Legislature should consider the following items during the 2023 General Session.

We recognize that whether the Legislature chooses to act on the following items depends on legislative policy decisions that are outside the audit arena.

■ 2020-08: A Performance Audit of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative

The Legislature created a "Criminal Justice Data Management Task Force," consisting of legislators, representatives from state and local criminal justice agencies, law enforcement, and other criminal justice representatives to be overseen and staffed by CCJJ (S.B. 150, 2022 General Session). This task force began meeting in July 2022, but the statute is set for repeal on April 30, 2023. As this task force is temporary, the Legislature should consider creating a permanent governing board to fulfill this JRI audit recommendation. Creation of this board could also fulfill the companion recommendation to create a criminal justice information sharing environment board recommended in A Performance Audit of Information Sharing in the Criminal Justice System (2020-08).

■ 2020-11: A Performance Audit of Public Education's Governance Structure

The Legislature should consider reviewing the overlapping education governance functions described in the report and determine whether they should be clarified or remain overlapping.

■ 2021-11: A Performance Audit of the Culture and Grant Management Process of the Department of Health

Some language in statute requires DOH to conduct specific activities that largely rely on funds from federal grants. The Legislature should consider revisiting statute to determine if these activities are still priorities.

■ 2022-08: Comprehensive Education Audit Capstone

This review and update of the seven comprehensive education audits released from 2020 to2022 shows that 55 of the 57 recommendations made are not yet fully implemented. Twenty-four of those remaining recommendations are directed to the Legislature.

■ 2022-09: An In-Depth Budget Review of the Utah Insurance Department

The Legislature should consider whether it is appropriate for the Captive Division to promote the industry given is role as regulator. There can be potential conflict of interest issues when the Utah Insurance Department's Captive Division is statutorily both the regulator and promoter of the captive insurance industry.



Legislative Action Items

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2022-11: A Performance Audit of Utah's System of Higher Education Governance

The Legislature should consider affirming its desired governance model for the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE), as well as additional accountability measures to determine whether the governance model is implemented and operational. Additionally, the Legislature should consider reviewing the structure and size of the USHE board and the balance of power between USHE and local boards of trustees. Lastly, the Legislature should consider if current governance allows institutional presidents the flexibility to manage and innovate.

■ 2022-15: A Limited Review of the Coordination Between Public Safety Entities

Utah does not define recidivism in *Utah Code* or *Administrative Rule*, leaving the possibility of variance in calculations to be broad. This may lead to confusion if agencies use different methods to calculate recidivism and get different results. The Legislature should consider revising statute to include appropriate definition(s) of recidivism, once created by CCJJ.

Probationers are sentenced by the Courts and account for three quarters of those in AP&P supervision. If greater numbers of dangerous offenders are sentenced to probation, AP&P's agent resources will be spread thinner, potentially risking public safety. The Legislative Audit Subcommittee

should consider prioritizing an audit on the Utah Court System's use of probation to determine if the procedures are clear and whether public safety is optimized.

■ 2022-16: An In-Depth Budget Review of the Salt Lake City School District

School district and the state partner to fund public education. Funding can be impacted as school districts give up property taxes for TIF projects and, at times, receive mitigation funds. The current funding formula has resulted in school districts receiving mitigation funds from TIFs that have resulted in almost \$4.4 million in additional state spending. We recommend that the Legislature consider modifying statute for new tax increment financing agreements to balance state funding offsetting TIFs.

■ 2022-17: A Performance Audit of Utah's Election System and Controls

While Utah's system of controls works together to prevent election wrongdoing, counties inconsistently use and train on the use of those election controls. To standardize the use of existing controls, the Legislature should consider adding election standard oversight, and enforcement responsibilities and mechanisms to *Utah Code*.



Office Impact

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The mission of the Office of the Legislative Auditor General is to serve the Utah Legislature and the citizens of Utah by providing objective and credible information, in-depth analysis, findings, and conclusions that help legislators and other decision makers:

- Improve Programs
- Reduce Costs
- Promote Accountability

■Improving Programs

We identify changes in statute or agency policies and practices that can help programs more effectively achieve their purposes.

An In-Depth Follow-Up of the Oversight and Management of Utah's Homeless Services led to 2022 bills that addressed improving connections across Continuum of Cares, local homeless councils, state and local governments, and affordable housing.

■Reducing Cost

We find savings for Utah taxpayers by identifying ways to run programs more efficiently or collect revenues that agencies are failing to collect.

An In-Depth Budget Review of the Salt Lake City School District (SLCSD) found that SLCSD operates an inefficient number of elementary schools which increases costs by at least \$3.58 million annually. In 2022, the Office of the Legislative Auditor General (OLAG) completed 18 audits:

- 17 full audits
- 1 special project

■ Promote Accountability

We provide information that helps decision makers address important issues, including the adequacy of governance structures.

A Performance Audit of Social Services
Agencies' Performance Metrics led to 2022
Legislative intent language "that DWS and
DOH collaborate with the LFA and the GOPB
to incorporate the recommendations from...
the audit... in the performance measure review
process and report back in the General
Session."





Office Impact

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■ School District Metrics

OLAG created a website detailing measures of each school district to aid in decision

making. This website allows policy makers to drill into specific details on each district, or compare a broad range of metrics.



■ Implementing Systemic LEA Audits

We completed the first two audits of Local

Weber School District Audit



SLC School District Audit



Education Agencies: Weber and Salt Lake School Districts.
Helping school districts identify areas where they can replicate successful practices in schools is a focal point of these audits. Our audit of Salt Lake City School District found a school with consistently higher proficiency rates than similar schools in the district and across the state. We recommend the SLSCD identify instructional best practices like those in this school, and then implement them districtwide.

National Recognition

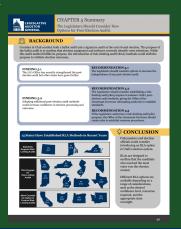
National Legislative Program Evaluation Society Impact Award

A Performance Audit of Healthcare in State Prisons



Report Modernization

OLAG modernized and standardized its branding. This includes a new report style and the institution of chapter summaries at the beginning of each chapter.



■ Election Website

To increase access and interaction levels with the elections report, OLAG created an interactive website providing an overview of key controls and their risks and recommendations for improvements.



■ 2022 General Session Impact

This document highlights bills from the 2022

General Session that were impacted by OLAG's audit findings, demonstrating the scope of the audits and how the Legislature can purposefully utilize OLAG to make legislative changes.





Office of the Legislative Auditor General

Completed Audits

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Recommendations to: Improve service delivery



Recommendations to: Improve reporting and communication



Recommendations to: Improve cost effectiveness and resources use



Recommendations to: Improve legislative oversight



Recommendations to: Improve program management

2022 Completed Audits

Agency

Legislative

2022-01: A Performance Audit of Higher Education Police Department

University police face unique legal requirements and liabilities that would not be eliminated by contracting for outside law enforcement service. Delays in reporting potential crimes at the U of U and federal compliance errors across Utah's universities highlight opportunities to improve.



The Weber School District can improve its strategic plan, grant management controls, and operational efficiency and effectiveness.

2022-03: A Performance Audit of Teacher and Principal Performance Within Utah's Public Education

This audit found that most teacher evaluation systems are only partially meeting the Legislature's state finding that evaluations are to improve the performance of teachers. Additionally, there is a significant opportunity to elevate education through a preparation pipeline for school principles.

2022-04: A Performance Audit of Financial Reporting in Public Education

Vague charts of accounts as well as insufficient monitoring and enforcement limit stakeholders' ability to analyze financial data in public education.

2022-05: A Performance Audit of Public Education Administrative Costs

> Administrative costs in public education are relatively low, but financial reporting concerns and noncompliance with state requirements raise questions whether these low costs provide sufficient value.

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Completed Audits

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2022 Completed Audits

Agency

Legislative

2022-06: A Performance Audit of the Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Division of Technology Services

The Division of Technology Services needs to improve its communications and is not meeting agencies business needs: it has not been proactive, nor has it met or updated key performance metrics, and lacks policies and procedures for IT project management.





2022-07: A Limited Review of the Utah Inland Port Authority

This Limited Review contains recommendations focused on strengthening the port's governance, oversight structure, and contract management and procurement processes; it recommends further audit work, if desired, to review both the port's use of its \$150 million bond issuance and its reporting environment to determine an appropriate reporting model.





2022-08: Comprehensive Education Audit Capstone

This audit summarizes the seven comprehensive education audits released between 2019 and 2022 and updates the status of recommendations.





2022-09: An In-Depth Budget Review of the Utah Insurance Department

This In-Depth Budget Review found areas within the Captive Insurance Division and Insurance Fraud Division where they could make changes to be more effective.





2022-10: A Performance Audit of Tax Increment Financing

Redevelopment agencies could improve transparency of tax increment project areas and better monitor progress toward project area goals and outcomes.





2022-11: A Performance Audit of Utah's System of Higher Education Governance

The Utah Board of Higher Education struggles to govern as dictated by Utah Code and the degree-granting institutions within the system underperform on key metrics compared to their peers and national averages. However, graduates from USHE institutions do receive a positive return on investment. Additionally, ongoing improvements are being made in governance.







Completed Audits

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2022 Completed Audits

Agency

Legislative

2022-12: A Performance Audit of Curriculum and Teacher Training in Public Education

This audit identified potentially questionable content from a sample of courses and recommends the Legislature consider deciding at what level the curriculum establishment process should be uniform from district to district.

2022-13: A Performance Audit of the Oversight and Effectiveness of Audit Probation and Parole

Adult Probation and Parole can improve agent retention, agent supervision, and adherence to evidence-based practices to enhance public safety.

2022-14: A Performance Audit of the Board of Pardons and Parole

The Board of Pardons and Parole can more clearly define its philosophy, improve its operations and transparency, and review its processes to ensure they follow due process and probable cause standards.

2022-15: A Limited Review of the Coordination Between Public Safety Entities

Public safety entities in Utah can improve their collective effectiveness if AP&P determines its workload capacity, recidivism measures are standardized, 72-hour jail holds are better managed, and the Utah Court System's use of probation is reviewed.

2022-16: An In-Depth Budget Review of the Salt Lake City School District

SLCSD should improve its board governance, evaluate building needs, and improve operational efficiencies.

2022-17: A Performance Audit of Utah's Election System and Controls

Election integrity in Utah is generally well guarded by existing controls but there are important opportunities to improve voter registration, ballot tracking and accountability, signature verification standards, post-election audits, and the Lieutenant Governor's election duties and authority.

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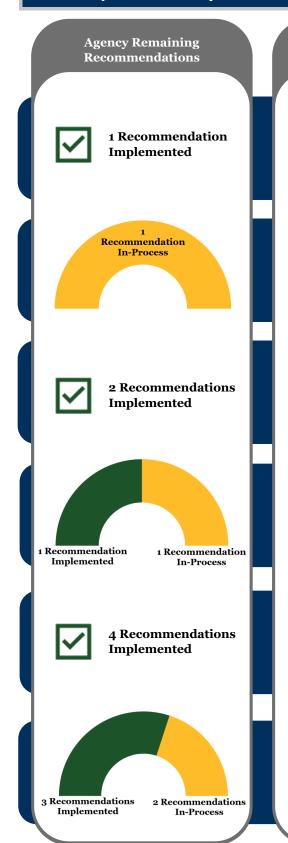
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Office of the Legislative Auditor General 2020 Completed Follow-Ups

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Legislative Remaining Recommendations

* Multi-year follow ups focus only on recommendations not previously implemented

2020-01: An In-Depth Follow-Up of the University of Utah Athletics Department

> 2020-02: A Performance Audit of Medicaid's Pharmacy Benefit Oversight

2020-03: A Performance Audit of the Community Impact Fund

2020-04: An In-Depth Budget Review of the Department of Environmental Quality

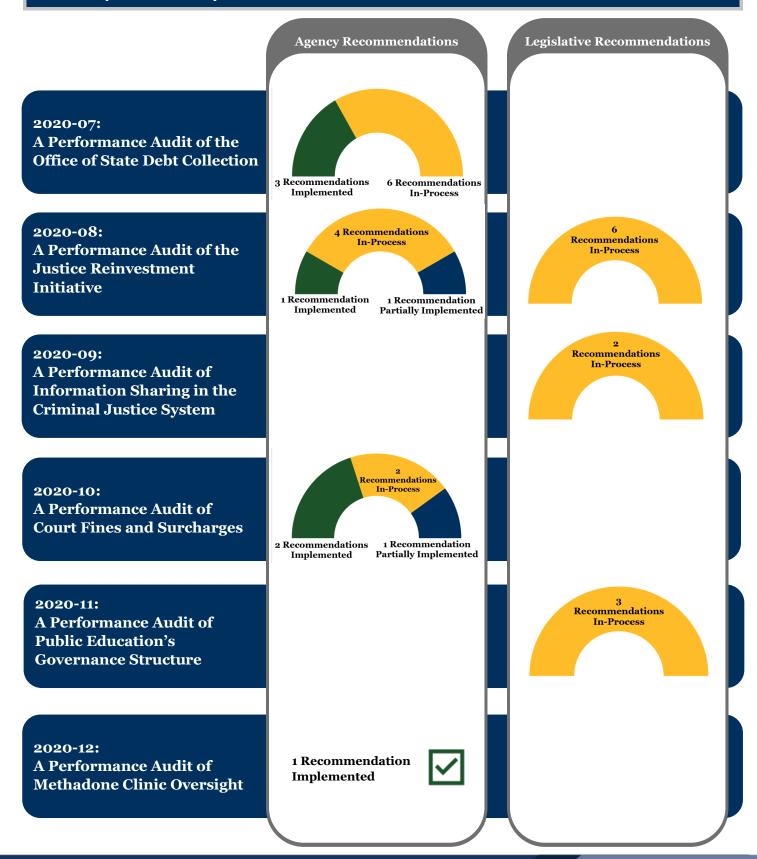
> 2020-05: A Performance Audit of the Division of Air Quality

2020-06: An In-Depth Follow-Up of 911 Audits and Review of 911 Staffing



Office of the Legislative Auditor General 2020 Completed Follow-Ups

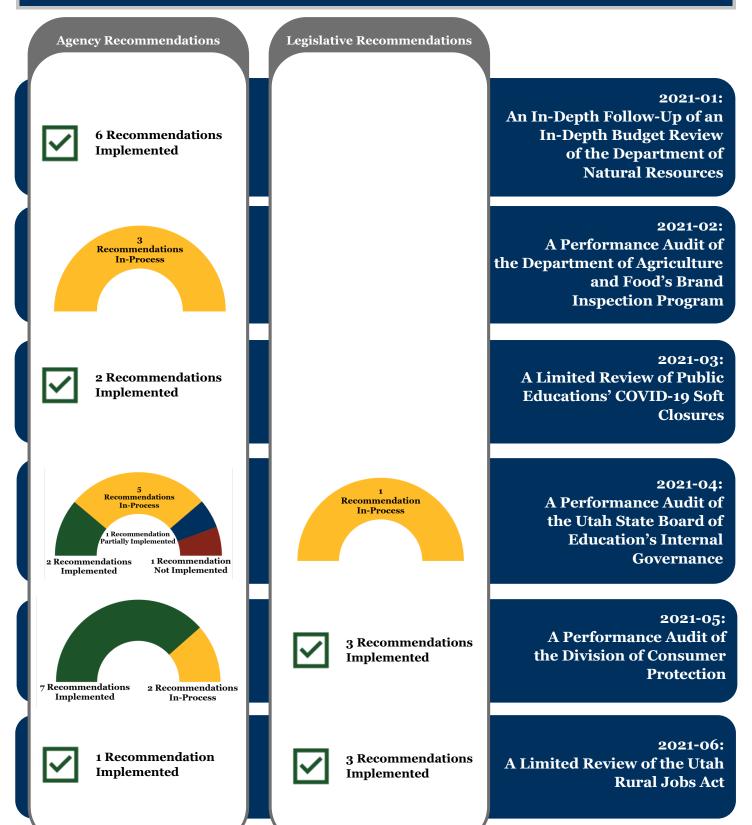
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2021-07:

A Follow-Up of the Safety and **Security Within Local Homeless Resource Centers**

2021-08:

An In-Depth Budget Review of the Department of Agriculture and Food

2021-09:

A Performance Audit of Utah's **Charter School Governance** Structure

2021-10:

A Performance Audit of the **Division of Services for People** with Disabilities

2021-11:

A Performance Audit of the **Culture and Grant Management Process of the Department of Health**

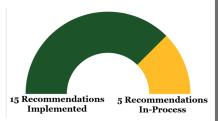
2021-12:

A Performance Audit of **Social Service Agencies' Performance Measures**

Agency Recommendations

7 Recommendations

Implemented





12 Recommendations **Implemented**

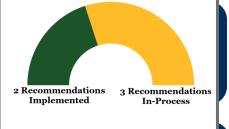






Legislative Recommendations



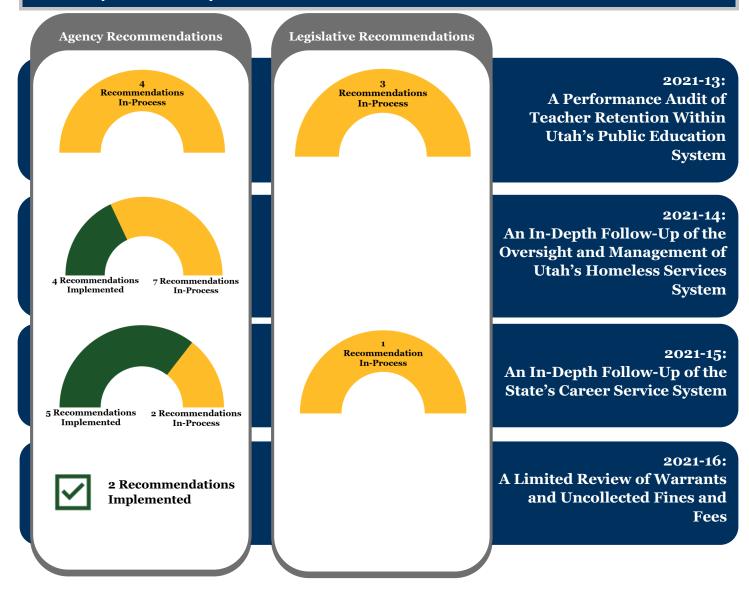






Office of the Legislative Auditor General 2021 Completed Follow-Ups

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187 Total Recommendations Agency Recommendations
60% Implemented
36% In Process
3% Partially Implemented
1% Not Implemented

<u>Legislative Recommendations</u>
23% Implemented
74% In Process
3% Not Implemented



Released Audits and Informal Reports • 2019 - 2021

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	Education	2020-06	An In-Depth Follow-Up of 911 Audits and Review of 911 Staffing
2019-C	A Limited Review of RISE Testing Issues	2020-08	The Justice Reinvestment Initiative
2019-12	Public Education Assessment Data	2020-09	Information Sharing in the Criminal Justice System
2019-14	Public Education Reporting Requirements	2020-10	Court Fines and Surcharges
2020-Е	Limited Review of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Intake Process	2021-A	Decline in Traffic Violations Contributed to Lower Fines and Surcharges
	Public Education's Governance Structure The Utah State Board of Education's Internal	2021-B	Six-Month Follow-Up of 911 Call Answer Times for VECC and Salt Lake City 911
•	Governance Utah's Charter School Governance Structure	2021-C	Twelve-Month Follow-Up of 911 Call Answer Times for VECC and Salt Lake City 911
	Teacher Retention Within Utah's Public Education	2021-16	A Limited Review of Warrants and Uncollected Fines and Fees
	System		
2022-02	An In-Depth Budget Review of the Weber School District	2021-17 2022-13	Healthcare in State Prisons Oversight and Effectiveness of Adult Probation and
2022-03	Teacher and Principal Performance Within Utah's Public Education System	2022-14	Parole Board of Pardons and Parole
•	Financial Reporting in Public Education Public Education Administrative Costs	2022-15	A Limited Review of the Coordination Between Public Safety Entities
	Comprehensive Education Audit Capstone Curriculum and Teacher Training in Public Education		Social Services
	An In-Depth Budget Review of the Salt Lake City School	2212.20	
2022 10	District		Child Welfare During Divorce Proceedings
	Environment	1 1	PEHP's Pharmacy Benefit Manager
2019-01	Waste Tire Recycling Fund	2020-A	A Survey to Determine Whether Utah Unemployment Insurance (UI) Overpayment Practices Contain Systemic Problems
	An In-Depth Budget Review of the Department of		
	Natural Resources		Methadone Clinic Oversight
2019-11	Utah's Oil and Gas Program		Medicaid's Pharmacy Oversight
	An In-Depth Budget Review of the Department of	2021-07	A Follow-Up Audit of the Safety and Security Within Local Homeless Resource Centers
	Environmental Quality	2021-10	Division of Services for People with Disabilities
_	Division of Air Quality	2021-11	Culture and Grant Management Process of the
	In-Depth Follow-Up of an In-Depth Budget Review of the Department of Natural Resources	2021-12	Department of Health Social Service Agencies' Performance Measures
2021-02	Department of Agriculture and Food's Brand Inspection Program	2021-14	An In-Depth Follow-Up of the Oversight and Management of Utah's Homeless Service System
	Higher Education		Transportation
2019-02	The University Neuropsychiatric Institute and Crisis Services	2019-A	A Limited Review of Allegations Regarding UDOT
	The University of Utah's Laboratory Safety Practices State and Higher Education Building Costs		Noise Barrier in Summit County
	An In-Depth Follow-Up of the University of Utah		Other
	Athletics Department	2019-B	A Limited Follow-Up of Audit 2016-04 A Performance
	Higher Education Police Departments Utah's System of Higher Education Governance	2019-Б	Audit of the Department of Financial Institution's
	Local Government		Regulation of Payday Loan Industry
			Same Day Voter Registration Controls
2019-03	Counties' Use of Tourism Promotion Funding		Permanent Community Impact Fund
	Tooele County's Sale of the Utah Motor Sports Campus	_	The Division of Consumer Protection Utah Rural Jobs Act
	Repayment Feasibility of the Lake Powell Pipeline	2021-15	An In-Depth Follow-Up of the State's Career Service
	Tax Increment Financing		System
2022-17	Utah's Election System and Controls	2022-A	Informal Poll of Utah Senate on United States Senate Candidates
	Public Safety		Efficiency and Effectiveness of Technology Services
2019-15	Utah Communications Authority and 911 Operations		A Limited Review of the Utah Inland Port Authority
2020-G	Survey of Drug Court Sanctions—Price, Utah	2022-09	An In-Depth Budget Review of the Utah Insurance Department



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Audit Subcommittee

President J. Stuart Adams, Co-Chair Speaker Brad R. Wilson, Co-Chair

President of the Senate Speaker of the House

Senator Evan I. Vickers Representative Mike Schultz

Senate Majority Leader House Majority Leader

Senator Luz Escamilla Representative Angela Romero

Senate Minority Leader House Minority Leader

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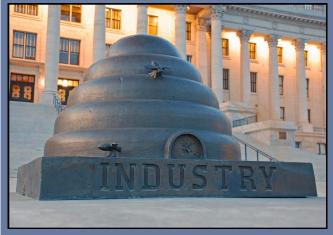
Abigail Armstrong Tanner Taguchi

- Administrative Assistant -

Debbie Clawson











"The legislative auditor shall have authority to conduct audits of any funds, functions, and accounts in any branch, department, agency or political subdivision of this state and shall perform such other related duties as may be prescribed by the Legislature. He shall report to and be answerable only to the Legislature." —Article VI, Section 33 of the Utah Constitution

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